



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6596

January Session, 2003

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (k) of section 10-145b of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2003*):

4 (k) (1) Unless otherwise provided in regulations adopted under
5 section 10-145d, in not less than three years nor more than eight years
6 after the issuance of a provisional educator certificate pursuant to
7 subsection (g) of this section and upon the statement of the
8 superintendent in whose school district such certificate holder was
9 employed, or the supervisory agent of a nonpublic school approved by
10 the State Board of Education, in whose school such certificate holder
11 was employed, that the provisional educator certificate holder and
12 such superintendent or supervisory agent have mutually determined
13 or approved an individual program pursuant to subdivision (2) of
14 subsection (j) of this section and upon the statement of such
15 superintendent or supervisory agent that such certificate holder has a
16 record of competency in the discharge of such certificate holder's
17 duties during such provisional period, the state board upon receipt of
18 a proper application shall issue such certificate holder a professional
19 educator certificate. A signed recommendation from the
20 superintendent of schools, or the superintendent's designee, for the
21 local or regional board of education or from the supervisory agent of a

22 nonpublic school approved by the State Board of Education shall be
 23 evidence of competency. Such recommendation shall state that the
 24 person who holds or has held a provisional educator certificate has
 25 successfully completed at least three school years of satisfactory
 26 teaching for one or more local or regional boards of education or such
 27 nonpublic schools. Each applicant for a certificate pursuant to this
 28 subsection shall provide to the Department of Education, in such
 29 manner and form as prescribed by the commissioner, evidence that the
 30 applicant has successfully completed coursework pursuant to
 31 subsection (h) or (j) of this section, as appropriate.

32 (2) Upon application, a teacher from another state who has taught in
 33 such other state for a minimum of five years and is nationally board
 34 certified shall be issued a professional educator certificate with the
 35 appropriate endorsement, subject to the provisions of subsection (m) of
 36 this section relating to denial of applications for certification.

37 Sec. 2. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 10-183e of the general
 38 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
 39 (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

40 (b) Any member may purchase, as provided in subsection (c) of this
 41 section, additional credited service, but [not to exceed an aggregate of
 42 one year in the case of service described in subdivision (2) of this
 43 subsection for each two years of active full-time service as a
 44 Connecticut teacher; and] not to exceed an aggregate of one year in the
 45 case of absence described in subdivision (8) of this subsection for each
 46 five years of active full-time service as a Connecticut teacher, provided
 47 if any such absence exceeds thirty consecutive school months, such
 48 additional credited service shall be limited to thirty school months;
 49 and not to exceed an aggregate of ten years for all service described in
 50 this subsection, except for service described in subdivision (2) of this
 51 subsection. In no event [, however,] may any service described in this
 52 subsection be purchased if the member is receiving or is, or will
 53 become, entitled to receive a retirement benefit based upon such
 54 service from any governmental system other than the teachers'

55 retirement system or the federal Social Security System. Additional
56 credited service includes:

57 (1) Service as a teacher in a school for military dependents
58 established by the United States Department of Defense;

59 (2) Service as a teacher in another state of the United States, its
60 territories or possessions;

61 (3) Service in the armed forces of the United States in time of war, as
62 defined in section 27-103, or service in said armed forces during the
63 period beginning October 27, 1953, and ending January 31, 1955;

64 (4) Service in a permanent full-time position for the state;

65 (5) Service as a teacher at The University of Connecticut prior to July
66 1, 1965;

67 (6) Service as a teacher at the Wheeler School and Library, North
68 Stonington, prior to September 1, 1949;

69 (7) Service as a teacher at the Gilbert Home, Winsted, prior to
70 September 1, 1948;

71 (8) Any formal leave of absence as provided in regulations adopted
72 by the board, if the member subsequently returns to service for at least
73 one school year;

74 (9) Service as a teacher at the American School at Hartford for the
75 Deaf, the Connecticut Institute for the Blind or the Newington
76 Children's Hospital;

77 (10) Forty or more days of service as a substitute teacher, or the
78 equivalent service rendered at less than half-time, in a single public
79 school system within the state of Connecticut in any school year,
80 provided eighteen days of such service shall equal one month of
81 credited service under subsection (a) of this section;

82 (11) Service in the armed forces of the United States, other than

83 service described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, not to exceed
84 thirty months;

85 (12) Service as a full-time, salaried, elected official of the state or any
86 political subdivision of the state during the 1978 calendar year or
87 thereafter, if such member subsequently returns to service for at least
88 one school year;

89 (13) Service in the public schools of Connecticut as a member of the
90 federal Teacher Corps, not to exceed two years; and

91 (14) Service in the United States Peace Corps.

92 (c) Additional credited service must be purchased (1) at the time of
93 retirement, or (2) at the time a surviving spouse elects benefits under
94 the provisions of subsection (d) of section 10-183h, or (3) at the time
95 benefits commence under an optional payment form pursuant to
96 section 10-183j. Any purchase of service shall be accomplished by the
97 member paying to the board an amount equal to one-half of the
98 actuarial present value or, in the case of the purchase of service
99 described in subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section in excess of
100 ten years, the full actuarial present value, determined according to
101 actuarial tables adopted by the board, of the difference between the
102 retirement benefit which the member is entitled to receive based upon
103 his or her service apart from such purchased service and the benefit
104 which he or she is entitled to receive including such service. Payments
105 for additional credited service may be made in a lump sum by transfer
106 of funds from the member's accumulated one per cent contributions
107 withheld prior to July 1, 1989, with credited interest and accumulated
108 voluntary contributions with credited interest plus such other amounts
109 as may be required to complete the purchase.

110 Sec. 3. Section 10-183v of the general statutes is repealed and the
111 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

112 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a former
113 teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system may not be

114 employed in a teaching position receiving compensation paid out of
115 public money appropriated for school purposes except that such
116 former teacher may be employed temporarily in such a position and
117 receive no more than [forty-five] one hundred per cent of the [entry-
118 level salary] maximum salary level for the assigned [subject area for
119 such compensation] position. Any former teacher who receives in
120 excess of such amount shall reimburse the board for the amount of
121 such excess. Temporary employment means employment for less than
122 a school year. Notice of such employment shall be sent [monthly]
123 semiannually on January thirty-first and June thirtieth to the board by
124 the employing officials and by the retired teacher at the end of each
125 assignment.

126 (b) [A] Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
127 section, a former teacher receiving retirement benefits from the system
128 may, with prior approval of the Teachers' Retirement Board, be
129 reemployed by a local or regional board of education [or by any
130 constituent unit of the state system of higher education if such
131 employment is authorized by the Teachers' Retirement Board upon
132 certification to such board that such reemployment is in the best
133 interests of the local or regional school system. Such certification shall
134 be made by the local or regional board of education, if the employer is
135 to be a local or regional board of education, or the Board of Governors
136 of Higher Education, if the employer is to be a constituent unit of the
137 state system of higher education] in a position designated by the
138 Commissioner of Education as a subject shortage area pursuant to
139 section 10-86 for the school year in which the former teacher is being
140 reemployed or in such other position as may be deemed necessary by
141 the commissioner. Such reemployment with any one board of
142 education may be for up to one full school year but may, with prior
143 approval by the Commissioner of Education and the Teachers'
144 Retirement Board, be extended for an additional school year. A local or
145 regional board of education shall submit a request for approval in
146 writing to the Teachers' Retirement Board prior to the reemployment
147 of such former teacher and prior to extending such reemployment for

148 an additional school year. Such requests for approval shall include a
149 statement indicating the type of assignment to be performed, the
150 anticipated date of rehire and the expected duration of the assignment.

151 (c) The [employment] reemployment of a former teacher under
152 subsection (b) of this section shall not be considered as service
153 qualifying for continuing contract status under section 10-151 and the
154 salary of such teacher shall be fixed at an amount at least equal to that
155 paid other teachers in the same school system with similar training
156 and experience for the same type of service. Upon approval by the
157 Teachers' Retirement Board of such reemployment, such former
158 teacher shall be eligible for the same health insurance benefits
159 provided to active teachers employed by such school system. No
160 benefits shall be paid in under section 10-183t while such former
161 teacher is employed by such system.

162 (d) No person shall be entitled to survivor's benefits under
163 subsection (f) of section 10-183f as a result of reemployment under this
164 section.

165 [(e) Retirement benefits to a former teacher reemployed under
166 subsection (b) of this section shall terminate on the first day of the
167 month of such reemployment. Retirement benefits shall resume on the
168 first day of the month after reemployment ceases.]

169 [(f)] (e) The same option plan of retirement benefits in effect prior to
170 reemployment shall continue for a reemployed teacher during
171 reemployment, [and upon subsequent retirement.]

172 [(g) Any former teacher reemployed under subsection (b) of this
173 section may elect upon completion of not less than six months
174 continuous service to make contributions to the system from such date.
175 The employer of such electing reemployed teacher shall thereafter treat
176 such teacher with respect to the system in the same manner as any
177 other member of the system except that such employer shall deduct
178 only six-sevenths of the amount that would be deducted from the
179 salaries of other members.

180 (h) Any reemployed teacher electing to make contributions to the
 181 system under subsection (g) of this section may also elect to obtain
 182 retirement credit for service during the period from the beginning of
 183 reemployment to the date of such election by contributing to the
 184 system within six months of the date on which such teacher makes
 185 such election under said subsection (g), six per cent of the salary paid
 186 such teacher during such period together with credited interest from
 187 the time such salary was paid until such contribution is made to the
 188 system.

189 (i) Upon the subsequent retirement of an electing reemployed
 190 teacher, the retirement benefits payable to such retired teacher shall be
 191 increased by triple the amount that would be payable based solely
 192 upon contributions of such teacher made during the period of
 193 reemployment plus credited interest thereon.]

194 (f) The provisions of this section in effect on June 30, 2003, shall be
 195 applicable to any reemployed teacher making contributions under this
 196 section to the Teachers' Retirement System on June 30, 2003.

197 Sec. 4. Subsection (d) of section 10-145f of the general statutes is
 198 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 199 *1, 2003*):

200 (d) Any person who is first issued a certificate valid after July 1,
 201 1989, or who is reissued a certificate after July 1, 1989, shall, except as
 202 otherwise provided in this subsection, be required to achieve a
 203 satisfactory evaluation on a professional knowledge clinical
 204 assessment within two years after commencing [teaching in a public
 205 school] participation in the beginning educator support and training
 206 program in order to retain the certificate. The commissioner (1) may
 207 waive the requirement that such satisfactory evaluation on a
 208 professional knowledge clinical assessment be achieved upon a
 209 determination that such assessment is not valid for the person's
 210 teaching assignment, or (2) upon a showing of good cause, may extend
 211 the time limit for the assessment [by one year] for a period of time not

212 exceeding two years. The requirement of a clinical assessment shall not
 213 apply to any such person who has completed at least three years of
 214 successful teaching in a public school or a nonpublic school approved
 215 by the appropriate state board of education during the ten years
 216 immediately preceding the date of application or who successfully
 217 taught with a provisional teaching certificate during the year
 218 immediately preceding an application for a provisional educator
 219 certificate as an employee of a local or regional board of education or
 220 facility approved for special education by the State Board of Education.
 221 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, [to the contrary,]
 222 the State Board of Education may reissue an initial educator certificate
 223 to a person who held such certificate and did not achieve a satisfactory
 224 evaluation on a professional knowledge clinical assessment provided
 225 the person submits evidence demonstrating significant intervening
 226 study and experience, in accordance with standards established by the
 227 State Board of Education.

228 Sec. 5. Subsection (d) of section 10-220a of the general statutes is
 229 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
 230 *1, 2003*):

231 (d) The state Department of Education may fund, within available
 232 appropriations, in cooperation with one or more regional educational
 233 service centers: (1) A cooperating teacher program to train Connecticut
 234 public school teachers and certified teachers at private special
 235 education facilities approved by the Commissioner of Education and at
 236 other facilities designated by the commissioner, who participate in the
 237 supervision, training and evaluation of student teachers; (2) institutes
 238 to provide continuing education for Connecticut public school
 239 educators, assessors and cooperating teachers and teacher mentors,
 240 including institutes to provide continuing education for Connecticut
 241 public school educators offered in cooperation with the Connecticut
 242 Humanities Council; and (3) a beginning teacher support and
 243 assessment program to train Connecticut public school teachers and
 244 other qualified persons approved by the Commissioner of Education
 245 and certified teachers at such private special education and other

246 designated facilities who serve as mentors or assessors for beginning
247 teachers and who supervise, train and assist or assess beginning
248 teachers in their initial years in teaching and to pay stipends to
249 assessors. Funds available under this subsection shall be paid directly
250 to school districts for the provision of substitute teachers when
251 cooperating teachers, teacher mentors, beginning teachers and
252 assessors are released from regular classroom responsibilities and for
253 the provision of professional development activities for cooperating
254 and student teachers, teacher mentors, assessors and beginning
255 teachers. The cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and
256 assessment programs shall operate in accordance with regulations
257 which shall be adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
258 chapter 54. Student teachers shall be placed with trained cooperating
259 teachers. Beginning teachers shall participate in a beginning teacher
260 support and assessment program as made available by the board.
261 School districts shall be responsible for providing support to beginning
262 teachers which shall include, but not be limited to, the placement of
263 beginning teachers with trained teacher mentors who may be full or
264 part-time teachers in the same or a different building than the
265 beginning teacher and provision of trained assessors to conduct
266 assessments of beginning teachers. Cooperating teachers, teacher
267 mentors and assessors may serve concurrently in more than one
268 capacity and may be assigned more than one student teacher or
269 beginning teacher in each such capacity. The assessment of each
270 beginning teacher shall be based upon, but not limited to, data
271 obtained from observations conducted by assessors using an
272 assessment instrument. [Notwithstanding any regulation to the
273 contrary, the State Board of Education may require less than six
274 observations as part of such assessment for the fiscal year ending June
275 30, 1992, and may establish different assessment standards for use
276 during such fiscal year. Notwithstanding any regulation to the
277 contrary, a] A beginning teacher need not be assessed by a certified
278 teacher who holds a certification endorsement in the same general
279 subject area as such beginning teacher. Cooperating teachers and
280 teacher mentors who are Connecticut public school teachers and

281 assessors who are employed by school districts shall be selected by
 282 local and regional boards of education. Cooperating teachers and
 283 teacher mentors and assessors at such private special education and
 284 other designated facilities shall be selected by the authority responsible
 285 for the operation of such facilities. If a board of education is unable to
 286 identify a sufficient number of individuals to serve in such positions,
 287 the commissioner may select qualified persons who are not employed
 288 by the board of education to serve in such positions. Such regulations
 289 shall require primary consideration of teachers' classroom experience
 290 and recognized success as educators. The provisions of sections 10-
 291 153a to 10-153n, inclusive, shall not be applicable to the selection,
 292 placement and compensation of persons participating in the
 293 cooperating teacher and beginning teacher support and assessment
 294 programs pursuant to the provisions of this section and to the hours
 295 and duties of such persons. The State Board of Education shall protect
 296 and save harmless, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-235,
 297 any cooperating teacher, teacher mentor or assessor while serving in
 298 such capacity.

299 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2003*) The Board of Trustees for the
 300 Connecticut Community-Technical Colleges, the Connecticut State
 301 University System and The University of Connecticut shall develop
 302 transfer and articulation agreements concerning teacher preparation
 303 programs. Such agreements shall include, but not be limited to,
 304 provisions concerning course requirements and electives, course
 305 transfer policies and practices, admissions requirements and policies of
 306 student recruitment, information and counseling. Such agreements
 307 shall provide that community-technical college students shall be
 308 admitted to schools of education on an equitable basis with students
 309 native to the university.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2003</i>

HED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

ED